Exemption from environmental Protection Laws

1008. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government can exempt Governmental and semi-Governmental bodies and local authorities etc. from the gambit of environmental protection laws :

(b) if so, what is the rationale thereof and what is the list of bodies that have been accorded such exemption;

(c) whether the existing laws including the exemptive provisions, meet the requirements of the decision taken in this regard at the Rio Conference in 1992;

(d) if not, what changes in the existing legislation are being contemplated to bring them in line with Rio decisions; and

(e) whether the departmental standing committee too has made such a recommendation, if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) There is an enabling provision under the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 wherein the Central Government can give conditional exemption by notification from the operation of certa in provisions of the Act. However, so far the Government has not given exemption to any unit. The exemption is envisaged to guard the information on processes and technology of certain sensitive units like nuclear and defence installations of national interest. The existing Environmental Laws are in conformity with the requirements of the Rio declaration.

(d) The Ministry is carrying out an exercise to integrate all the major environmental laws to remove ambiguity, overlapping, and multiplicity to achieve the objective of environment protection envisaged in our National Conservation Strategy.

(e) The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended the delection of exemption clause from the proposed National Environment Tribunal Bill, 1992, which is pending for consideration and passing in the Parliament.

Pollution in Yamuna

1009. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Economic Times of 17th January, 1994 captioned 'Polluted Yamuna, a time Bomb for Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether the increasing effluents from industries mushrooming in cities and townships along its course in U.P. and Haryana, have reduced the river Yamuna to a huge sewer;

(d) whether it is a fact that the national capital has to bear the maximum damage and the river is fast becoming the metropoli's drain of sorrow;

(e) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard; and

(f) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to check the pollution in the river Yamuna and to save the lives of people living in Delhi and other towns ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yamuna river is heavily polluted due to discharge of partly treated or untreated domestic waste water and industrial effluents particularly along the city limits of Delhi, Mathura and Agra. Very scanty flow of water in Yamuna has compounded the pollution problem. The Government has identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries for taking priority action to comply with the prescribed standards. The status of pollution control compliance as on 31 December, 1993 in the medium and large-scale indusrial units of these categories, as given by the Governments of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) In Delhi, about 2000 million litres of domestic waste water is generated per day against which the present installed capacity of treatment is 1270 million litres per day. About 220 million litres per day of this

capacity is for primary treatment level only. Thus, nearly 730 million litres of untreated and 220 million litres of partly treated waste water is discharged into the Yamuna every day.

(f) An action plan for pollution abatemen of river Yamuna has been approved by the Government. Under this plan, pollution abatement works would be undertaken in six towns of Haryana and eight towns of Uttar Pradesh. In Delhi, the pollution abatement works would be undertaken under Delhi's own plan to augment the sewage treatment capacity to 2270 million litres per day. In addition, two small treatments plants each of 10 million litres per day capacity would be constructed under the Yamuna Action Plan. Action has been initiated on the Yamuna Action Plan and the Delhi Government's Plan by the concerned State Governments. The Central Pollution Control Board have directed the concerned State Pollution Control Boards to monitor the defaulting medium and large scale industries in a time-bound manner. According to the Government of Delhi, the approach of setting up of common effluent treatment plants would be adopted to control the pollution from clusters of small scale industries.

Statement

The Status of Pollution Control Compliance as on 31st Dec. 1993 in the Medium and large scale units as given by the governments of Hryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Total No. of units belonging to 17 categories	Units having adequate facilities to comply with the standards	No. of units closed down	Units not having adequate facilities to comply
1	Uttar Pradesh . . .	224	165	8	51
2	Haryana	43	22	2	19
3	Delhi	5	2	—	3

Action plan to protect Birds

1010. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any action plan has been prepared to protect and preserve the threatened species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians in India;

(b) if so, what are the endangered species and the details of the action plan; and

(c) the targets fixed thereunder during the Eighth Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) A National Wildlife Action Plan was prepared following the XV Meeting of Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) held on 1st October, 1982. One of the aims of this National Wildlife Action Plan was to rehabilitate indigenous, endangered and threatened species of flora and fauna and restore them to protected portions of their former habitats. The Zoological Survey of India has classified 81 mammals, 47 birds, 15 reptiles and 3 amphibians as threatened. The measures taken to protect and improve the status of these species include development of their habitate, legal protection under Wild Life (Protection), Act, 1972, ban on trade of these animals including their parts and products, deterent punishment to offenders and central assistance to state govts. under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(c) The targets fixed for these under VIIIth Five Year Plan are as follows :

Scheme	Rs. in crores
Project Tiger . . .	24.00
Project Elephant . . .	6.25
National Parks & Sanctuaries .	40.00

Rhino Scheme has been transferred to the State on the decisions of the National Development Council.